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July 11, 2011

Karl Morell
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E-FILED

Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 11 2011

Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 477X), BNSF Railway Company --
Abandonment of Rail Service Easement Exemption -- In Los Angeles
County, California

Dear Ms. Brown:

Attached please find the comments of Senator Feinstein, Congressmember Judy Chu, the City of Arcadia, The Canyon City, and the City of Duarte in support of the abandonment by BNSF Railway Company of its rail service easement in the above-referenced proceeding.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

Karl Morell
Of Counsel

cc: All parties of record

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

July 6, 2011

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing in support of BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) request to abandon freight service on the Foothill Extension right-of-way, from Arcadia to the San Gabriel River Bridge in Los Angeles County.

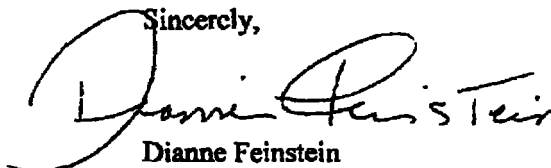
The Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa is a widely supported project in the region that will assist in easing traffic congestion along the heavily traveled corridor. It is estimated by Los Angeles County METRO that this project will create 7,000 jobs and nearly \$1 billion in economic stimulus during the construction period. The line will ultimately carry thousands of daily riders and connect METRO's expanding rail system.

Currently, no rail freight customers are located on this corridor, and BNSF has not handled freight traffic in the area for more than two years. BNSF agreed to abandon their freight service in the requested corridor to allow METRO to complete the Foothill Extension. Approving BNSF's request for abandonment of freight service between Arcadia and the San Gabriel River Bridge will complete the agreement between BNSF and METRO allowing for construction to begin on METRO's Foothill Extension project.

I kindly ask that you give this request every consideration. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact Michael Davies in my Los Angeles Office at 310-914-7300.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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2500 TULLUM STREET
SUITE 420C
FRESNO, CA 93721
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JUDY CHU, Ph.D.

32ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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THE JUDICIARY**

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, COMPETITION
AND THE INTERNET

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CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX AND CAPITAL ISSUES



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(323) 307-9906 (Fax)

June 17, 2011

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Support for STB Approval of BNSF Freight Abandonment - STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No.477X)

To Surface Transportation Board Members:

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) has petitioned the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for permission to abandon freight service on Foothill Extension right-of-way, from Arcadia to the San Gabriel River Bridge in Los Angeles County. No rail freight customers are located on this corridor, and BNSF has handled no freight traffic in this area for more than two years.

I am submitting this letter to strongly urge the STB to support BNSF's abandonment request, and to do so as soon as possible to allow the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension light rail project (from Pasadena to Azusa) to progress to construction.

The Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa will contribute positively to the region in the short and long term – including creation of more than 7,000 jobs, and nearly \$1 billion in economic stimulus, during the construction period alone. The line will ultimately carry tens of thousands of daily riders, connecting Metro's expanding rail system to some of the region's most important destinations, and helping to improve the region's air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

I understand that the abandonment of the freight service by BNSF in this portion of the alignment is necessary for construction of the Foothill Extension project; and for the foregoing reasons I urge your support of BNSF's request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, feel free to contact my District Director, Fred Ortega, at (626) 448-1271.

Sincerely,

JUDY CHU, Ph.D.

Congressmember, 32nd District



City of Arcadia

Office of the City Manager

Donald Penman
City Manager

June 17, 2011

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20423-0001

**SUBJECT: Support for STB Approval of BNSF Freight
Abandonment – STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No.477X)**

The City of Arcadia strongly urges the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to approve BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) request to abandon right-of-way from Arcadia to the San Gabriel River Bridge, within the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Pasadena to Azusa project area.

BNSF has petitioned the STB for permission to abandon freight service in this segment, and the City strongly supports that decision. In addition to no rail freight customers being located along the segment (BNSF has not handled freight traffic for over two years), abandonment supports the City's current land use regulations which encourages transit-oriented-development and does not support freight rail-served uses.

The future Foothill Extension light rail line will contribute positively to the future of our region and the City of Arcadia by creating jobs, relieving congestion, and creating a stimulus to economic development that is incredibly needed during this economic downturn.

The City of Arcadia urges the Board to expedite approval of BNSF's request to abandon this right-of-way.

Sincerely,

Donald Penman
City Manager



The Canyon City—Gateway to the American Dream

Francis M. Delach, City Manager
213 E. Foothill Blvd., Azusa, CA 91702 - (626) 812-5238
fdelach@ci.azusa.ca.us

RECEIVED

JUN 30 2011

MGL FOOTHILL EXT.
CONST. AUTHORITY

June 27, 2011

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**RE: SUPPORT FOR STB APPROVAL OF BNSF FREIGHT ABANDONMENT – STB
DOCKET NO. AB-6 (SUB-NO. 477X)**

The City of Azusa strongly urges the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to approve BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) request to abandon right-of-way from Arcadia to the San Gabriel River Bridge, within the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Pasadena to Azusa project area.

BNSF has petitioned the STB for permission to abandon freight service in this segment, and the city strongly supports that decision. In addition to no rail freight customers being located along the segment (BNSF has not handled freight traffic for over two years), abandonment of the right-of-way will allow this critically-needed project to move forward to construction.

The future Foothill Extension light rail line will contribute positively to the future of our region and the city of Azusa by creating jobs, relieving congestion, and creating a stimulus to economic development that is incredibly needed today and in the future. The city of Azusa has been anticipating the extension for many years, by updating our city planning documents and encouraging new developments along our portion of the corridor – understanding that our city will now support freight and light rail service.

The City of Azusa therefore urges the Board to expedite approval of BNSF's request to abandon this right-of-way.

Sincerely,


Francis M. Delach
City Manager



City of Duarte

1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010 - (626) 357-7931 - FAX (626) 358-0018

June 16, 2011

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Support for STB Approval of BNSF Freight Abandonment - STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No.477X)

The City of Duarte strongly urges the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to approve BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) request to abandon right-of-way from Arcadia to the San Gabriel River Bridge, within the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Pasadena to Azusa project area.

BNSF has petitioned the STB for permission to abandon freight service in this segment, and the City strongly supports that decision. In addition to no rail freight customers being located along the segment (BNSF has not handled freight traffic for over two years on this segment and for at least 15 years in the City of Duarte), abandonment supports the City's current land use regulations which encourages transit-oriented-development and does not support freight rail-served uses.

The future Foothill Extension light rail line will contribute positively to the future of our region and the City of Duarte by creating jobs, relieving congestion, and creating a stimulus to economic development that is incredibly needed today and in the future. In addition, the line will connect all of Los Angeles County with important regional destinations, including the City of Hope National Medical Center, a world-renowned research center, hospital and graduate medical school, that employs nearly 3,500 people, and that is located directly across the street from the future Duarte Gold Line station.

The City of Duarte therefore urges the Board to expedite approval of BNSF's request to abandon this right-of-way.

Sincerely,

Darrell George
Duarte City Manager